

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: AORG EAID UNIDO US

SUBJECT: UNIDO - GROUP OF EXPERTS REPORT ON STRATEGY

REF: VIENNA 2504

SUMMARY. INFORMAL INTERGROUP DISCUSSION ON EXPERTS STRATEGY REPORT RESUMED APRIL 6 AT SOVIET MISSION WITH AMB. ARKADIEV AS HOST. INDICATIONS AT END OF FRIDAY'S DISCUSSION WERE THAT INDIA AND INDONESIA NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND (A) HAVING IDB-VII TAKE NOTE OF EXPERTS REPORT, (B) HAVING CONSIDERATION OF UNIDO LONG TERM STRATEGY RESUMED AT PC- III/ IDB- VIII WITH SOME ARRANGEMENT FOR INTERSESSIONAL EXAMINATION OF THIS QUESTION. ATMOSPHERE WAS GOOD AND DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE IN RELAXED FASHION. HOWEVER, WAS EVIDENT THAT GROUP WAS STILL A LONG WAY FROM A CONSENSUS ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT ARRIVING AT A STRATEGY FOR UNIDO MUCH LESS HAVING A VIEW ON WHAT UNIDO STRATEGY SHOULD BE ABOUT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESENT ON APRIL 6 FOR CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF EXPERTS REPORT WERE SOVIET UNION, FRANCE, FRG, UK, US, BRAZIL, EGYPT, INDIA AND INDONESIA. GROUP HAD BEFORE IT " THINK PIECE" PREPARED AS PER PARA 6 REFTEL WHICH FOCUSED ON (A) DISPOSITION OF REPORT
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BY IDB- VII, (B) QUESTION OF WHAT, IF ANY, FURTHER STUDY OF POSSIBLE UNIDO STRATEGY SHOULD BE DECIDED UPON. IN LENGTHY OPENING RUMINATION ARKADIEV MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) HE PREFERRED TO REGARD THE EXPERTS REPORT AS CONCERNED WITH " ORIENTATION" OF UNIDO RATHER THAN " STRATEGY", (B) THE EXPERTS DECIDED TO BE PRACTICAL AND TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT UNIDO WOULD HAVE TO OPERATE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE WITH RELATIVELY LIMITED RESOURCES, (C) THE EXPERTS RECOGNIZED THAT THEIR REPORT WOULD NOT BE THE LAST WORD CONCERNING UNIDO' S LONG TERM ORIENTATION OR STRATEGY, (D) NOR, IN THE SOVIET VIEW, WOULD IDB- VII DISCUSSION BE THE LAST WORD. UNIDO' S ORIENTATION, AND/ OR STRATEGY MUST CONTINUE TO BE THE SUBJECT OF STUDY, SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AS CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED, (E) THE SOVIET UNION IS OPPOSED TO CHANGING UNIDO' S CONSTITUTIONAL SETUP AND FEELS THAT UNIDO OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO DO ITS JOB WITHIN THE PRESENT ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK.

2. SOME SENTIMENT EMERGED ON THE PART OF FRANCE AND UK FOR ASKING ABDEL- RAHMAN TO GIVE HIS DETAILED REACTIONS TO THE EXPERTS' REPORT IN THE LIGHT OF RESOURCES PROSPECTIVELY AVAILABLE TO UNIDO BEFORE TAKING ANY DECISIONS AT IDB- VII, TO WHICH ARKADIEV REACTED BY INSISTING THAT THE EXPERTS HAD GIVEN ABDEL- RAHMAN FULL OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE HIS VIEWS AND REACTIONS TO SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS AS EXPERTS HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THAT THE EXPERTS HAD TAKEN THESE INTO ACCOUNT IN A DESIRE TO BE " PRACTICAL". IN HIS VIEW A- R WOULD SIMPLY REPLY THAT HE FOUND THE REPORT " USEFUL". WHEN UK SUGGESTED THAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHOULD BE INVITED TO ADVISE THE IDB WHAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES HE WOULD REQUIRE TO IMPLEMENT THE EXPERTS RECOMMENDATIONS, WE (LATER SUPPORTED BY INDIA) DEMURRED ON GROUNDS THAT, ALTHOUGH EXPERTS HAD RECOMMENDED DIRECTIONS ALONG WHICH UNIDO SHOULD WORK, THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WERE NOT QUANTIFIED AND WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE ON WHAT BASIS A- R COULD CONSTRUCT A RESPONSE TO SUCH QUERY. BRAZIL ALSO DISLOKED ASKING A- R THIS QUESTION ON THE GROUNDS IT IMPLIED GOVERNMENTS WERE PREPARED SEE EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTED IF RESOURCES WERE AVAILABLE.

3. FRG SAW AS ALTERNATIVE POSSIBLE LINES OF ACTION BY IDB- VII (A) GENERALLY ACCEPTING EXPERTS' REPORT BUT ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR CONTINUED STUDY OF THE PROBLEM OF UNIDO STRATEGY, (B) EXAMINING THE INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDATIONS WITH A VIEW TO AMENDING THEM AS NECESSARY TO ASSURE GENERAL ENDORSEMENT.
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HOWEVER, FRG FELT LATTER EXERCISE MIGHT BE " TROUBLESOME".

AMBASSADOR JAIPAL (INDIA) TOOK CLEAR CUT POSITION AGAINST
" ACCEPTING" THE REPORT OR ASKING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO BE
" GUIDED BY IT SUBJECT TO COMMENTS MADE DURING IDB- VII" (THESE
WERE TWO POSSIBLE IDB ACTIONS LISTED IN THE " THINK PIECE")
ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE PREMATURE AND WOULD
HAVE THE EFFECT OF CLOSING THE DOOR TO FURTHER EFFORTS TO
CONSTRUCT A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE UNIDO STRATEGY AND WOULD HAVE
" SUBSTANTIAL UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES" FOR THE INTERESTS OF
DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES. AT MOST, HE WAS PREPARED TO TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT
AND HAVE THE SUBJECT UP FOR RENEWED DISCUSSION AT PC- III AND
IDB- VIII. THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR BASICALLY AGREED WITH THESE
VIEWS. BITTENCOURT (BRAZIL) INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT BE PREPARED
TO GO ALONG PROVIDED SUCH ACTION DID NOT AMOUNT TO " POSTPONEMENT
FOREVER" OF THE JOB OF WORKING OUT A UNIDO STRATEGY, WHICH IN
BITTENCOURT' S VIEW SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY PC- III. THE IMPORTANT
QUESTION WAS WHAT MECHANISM WOULD BE UTILIZED TO CARRY ON THIS
JOB. BITTENCOURT FELT THAT WHATEVER MECHANISM WAS USED FOR
THE JOB SHOULD WORK PARALLEL TO PC- II AND IDB- VII AND THAT
ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM SHOULD NOT BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER
THE UPCOMING BOARD MEETING. (BITTENCOURT' S VIEW REPRESENTS
SOME RETREAT FROM HIS INITIAL POSITION REPORTED REFTEL FOR WHICH
HE DREW NO SUPPORT FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP).

4. NEXT INTERGROUP DISCUSSION SCHEDULED AT INDIAN EMBASSY
APRIL 18. STIBRAVY

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